

SOLECISM

CUSA'S NEWSLETTER

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CUSA Inc. On Its Way

By François Longpré

At the next CUSA general elections in February, students will be voting in a referendum to approve the by-laws of Concordia University Students' Association Inc. This referendum will complete the process begun last year when students voted to incorporate their association.

A committee of CUSA's Legislative Council chaired by Simone Richard has been working on a draft of the by-laws.

This Committee will report to Council at its regular January meeting. There will then be open information sessions where students will get a chance to give their opinion of the report to Committee members. This consultation process will lead to a final report to Legislative Council. The approval of the by-laws will be put to the students in a referendum to run concurrent to the general elections in February.

Approval of the by-laws by the student body would finalize the incorporation process. The officers of CUSA would have to organize the corporation and set up Legislative Council as the Board of Directors of the new corporation.

Incorporation for CUSA will mean greater independence from the University administration and will help clarify and stabilize CUSA's relationship with both the University and outside bodies. Right now, CUSA is under the authority of the Board of Governors and could be put under trusteeship or modified by a single motion of the Board.

Incorporation would provide legal protection from contractual liability for the many officers of CUSA and its member associations would also give ownership of all of CUSA and its member associations' equipment - including all radio, typesetting, office and computer equipment - over to the students rather than the university.

Keep your eyes open for more information in future issues of Solecism.



Arts and Science Faculty Council Slits its Own Throat

Arts and Science Faculty Council, the highest decision-making body within the faculty, recently completed a very artistic suicide by approving various recommendations of the recently-published "Report of the Committee on Priorities and Planning" (Fahey Report) and "Phase I Report of the University Mission Study" (Peat-Marwick Report).

Both these reports were commissioned by the University's Board of Governor's to examine Concordia's future in Quebec education. The Fahey Commission, a committee of the Board, looked at Concordia from an internal structure and problem viewpoint. Peat-Marwick is an outside consulting firm that looked at Concordia from a businessman's point-

of-view: the marketability of our graduates.

An extremely simplified summary of the Peat-Marwick Report is that it encourages the existence and expansion of our business-oriented faculties (Commerce and Administration, Engineering and Computer Science) while not encouraging the existence and expansion of the other faculties (Fine Arts, Arts and Science).

Among the recommendations of the Fahey Report is one that the Faculty of Arts and Science's four divisions be abolished and that the entire faculty be restructured under one Dean, as opposed to

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INSIDE: Buying a Student Center For Sir George

The Mezzanine Proposal:

A Brief History Of the CUSA Centre Funds

1963-64 The Fund was first started by the contribution of the SUS (Student Undergraduate Society) operational budget surplus of \$4000.00 at the end of the 1963 school year. This money was set aside as the initial deposit in a special "Student Union Fund".

1965-66 A Students' University Centre Committee was established (seven students, one administrator) to further the planning and generate the resources to establish the Union Centre. This committee was responsible for a referendum which initiated a special \$5.00 per student fee for the development of the Centre. This fee continued to be collected until 1977-78.

1970-71 The Sir George Williams University Students Union Centre Inc. (SGWSUC), an incorporated body, was established and a building was purchased on the corner of Crescent and DeMaisoneuve Sts. This building served as the SGW union centre was run by the SGWSUC board of directors.

1975-76 After several years of operations at a large deficit, the building on Crescent Street was sold for \$210,000. This money was deposited with the University and is controlled by the Concordia University Students Association Centre Inc.

1982-83 The funds have now grown to well over \$400,000. The three students, CUSA comptroller and two university representatives on CUSA Centre Inc. are in the process of studying how the money could be used to acquire space for students on the Sir George Williams Campus.

By Terry Fenwick & Paul Gott

CUSA is currently in the final stages of negotiation with the Concordia administration in a deal that would see CUSA give the university \$400,000 in return for prime space on the mezzanine in the Hall building to be used as a student center.

The \$400,000 is currently held in trust by a separate corporation and it can only be used by CUSA to acquire student center space on or around the downtown campus.

If the deal goes through, it would give CUSA the space in the rear of the mezzanine currently occupied by the Sir George book store and the art galleries. Major renovations would be required to turn this area into a student use orientated center of the downtown campus with a separate street access (off the back terrace).

Space on the first and third floors, directly connected to the mezzanine area, is also included in the deal.

The acquisition of this space would also mean that Reggie's pub and the games room would be moved from their present seventh-floor location to the new space. They would be supplemented by a café, a quiet lounge, and possible study areas.

The opportunity for CUSA to acquire this space presented itself when the new library, across the street from the Hall building, was proposed. All university space from the Norris and GM (Guy metro) buildings is planned to be moved into the new building, along with a lot of Hall building offices, including the book store and art galleries.

This means a major review and overhaul of existing space distribution.

The preliminary plans for the space would have Reggie's in the north-west corner of the space (where the book store is now), bordered by a café, which in turn would be bordered by a quiet lounge. The partitions separating the pub, café and lounge would be removable to increase the size of Reggie's for major events such as beer bashes and band nights.

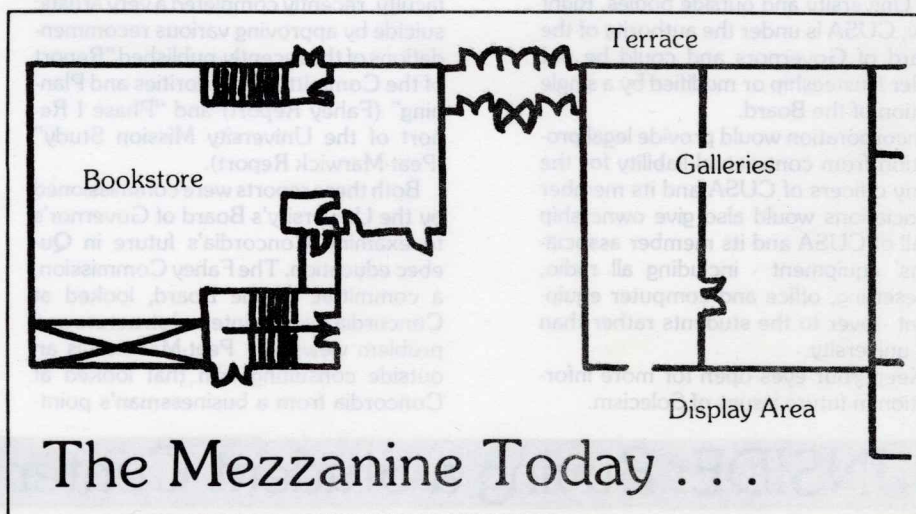
A room directly below Reggie's on the first floor would be used as the games room. Rooms on the hidden third floor, directly above the proposed Reggie's location, could be utilized in a number of ways, such as study space, music or TV rooms, offices or recreational (ping-pong?) areas.

This would benefit students by not only giving them more space, but by making that space more accessible and free from the normal university hassles (security, building hours and noise levels).

At the present time, the few lounge areas that are left in existence in the Hall building suffer from poor locations and lack of effort to enhance them for student needs.

Reggie's Pub is an exception to this rule in that considerable work has gone into improving the pub's facilities. But still its present location, somewhere behind the cafeteria on the seventh floor, is a serious drawback on its use. Security problems arise whenever the Hall building is closed (every night at 11:00 pm). Conflicts occur whenever a large event is staged because of the noise to classrooms above and below the pub and because the rest of the floor must remain open for people to eat.

The Hall building's one large "quiet" lounge, H-651, is really a multifunctional room. All social events not held in the



Giving the University \$400,000 in Return for Prime-Location Student Space in Hall Building

pub or cafeteria are crammed into this 100 person capacity room. Social events in 651 not only include many of the student parties and bashes (which create all the same security and noise hassles as Reggies) and also events such as conferences, clothing sales, foreign student immigration and the annual used bookstore.

When not being used for "special" events, room 651 is designated as a "quiet" (i.e. relaxation) type of student lounge.

Because of its poor location at the dead end of one of the sixth floor corridors and because its furnishings are the leftover dregs of the cafeteria chairs and tables, H-651, the Hall building's one relaxation lounge, is a total failure as a comfortable place for a student to relax between classes.

The only other Hall 'lounge' areas, as defined by the university, are the groupings of left-over classroom chairs at the east end of the mezzanine and in the corridors of the fourth, fifth and sixth floors. The locations and furnishings of these areas suit them more to a dentist's waiting room than student use areas.

Acquisition of the space on the mezzanine would alleviate many of the problems we now have with the present lounge spaces; Access to a party space from outside of the normal Hall building entrances; good sized, comfortable lounges serving students' recreational and quiet relaxation needs; Highly visible and well located lounges in the very center of the downtown campus. This type of a planned arrangement for student space is needed now to compliment the current University planning for the downtown library building.

For the past six months, CUSA has been studying, planning and proposing a number of schemes for the long term development of a student center type of space for the downtown campus. The "Mezzanine Proposal", described above, is currently the most attractive and by far the most detailed of the proposals available to the association.

Raven Spanier, a third year student at Concordia's Centre for Building Studies, developed a building program for student space on the Sir George campus as commissioned by CUSA this summer. This project entailed an analysis and summary of the present lounge spaces available, the development of criteria for space needed and preliminary plans of the space on the mezzanine as conceived by the building program as a student centre area.

Concurrent with this project, a Legislative Council committee investigated a number of possible scenarios for acquisition of student space. These students assessed the pros and cons of the various options available and recently submitted a report to Council with the recommendation that CUSA negotiate the outstanding issues of the Mezzanine Proposal with the university administration.

In November and December CUSA's proposal was presented to the University Physical Resource Evaluation Team (PRET) at four special meetings during which the student space proposal was discussed. PRET is an advisory body to the rector on all space distribution matters within the university.

At the final meeting, PRET passed a motion approving the mezzanine proposal and instituting a report summarizing its discussion to be sent to the Rector.

Pros and Cons Of the Deal At a Glance

CUSA gives up:

- \$400,000 from a fund that is currently held in trust by CUSA Center Inc. and which must be spent on student space on the downtown campus.

- Reggie's and the Games Room's seventh floor location. These will be moved down to the new mezzanine and first floor areas respectively. The extra space on the seventh floor would then be turned into more cafeteria space, meeting or lounging areas.

- The maneuverability to bargain for more space. The mezzanine deal would virtually fill the university's government-set quota of 'Staff/Student Service' space.

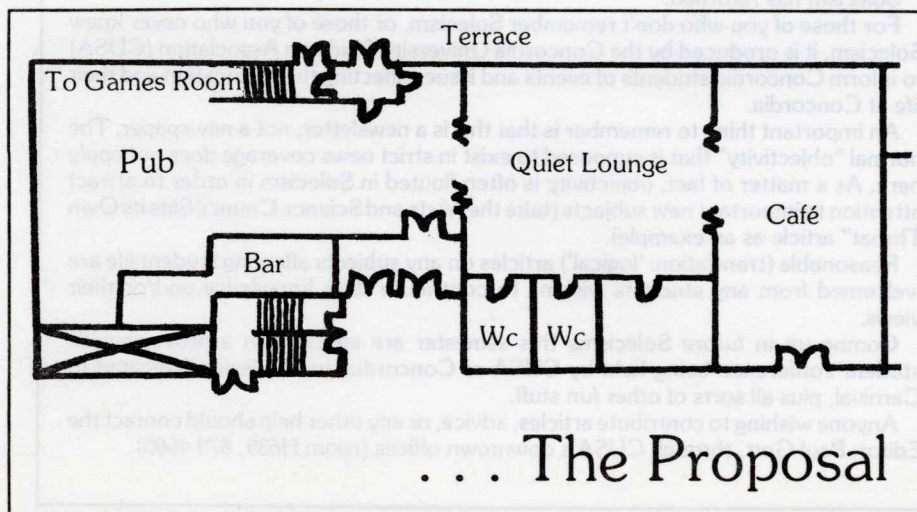
Students gain:

- A total of 530 square meters of (net) new space. Most of this being located at the rear of the Hall building mezzanine area, plus related areas on the first and third floors.

- Freedom from some of the normal university rules and regulations through the establishment of an outside entrance to the Pub for use after normal building hours and through removing Reggie's from the center of the building and the related noise and security problems. This would enable Reggie's to remain open after hours, on weekends and during exam periods.

The mezzanine deal is an important step in the evolution of the students association and its services to all student. It is also an important step for students in a fight for better university recognition of their need for more, better quality space.

Anyone wishing to comment on the 'mezzanine deal' or related questions of students space in the university should contact Terry Fenwick, CUSA's Internal VP, through either CUSA office.



Engineering Week Cometh

By Mike Spino

To exemplify the mystery, mischief, innovations and creations that surround our chosen field, we at the Engineering-Computer Science Association (ECSA) will be staging Engineering Week from January 17th to the 21st. This year we're featuring both academic and social events by the score.

We will be displaying research projects currently underway at Concordia and outside industry will be displaying their products and services via representatives, literature and audio-visual aids on the mezzanine.

New students are especially encouraged to partake in these activities as they give the thoroughly confused freshman an added awareness that isn't written between the lines of his/her differential equations. Valuable contacts can be made with industry representatives throughout the week.

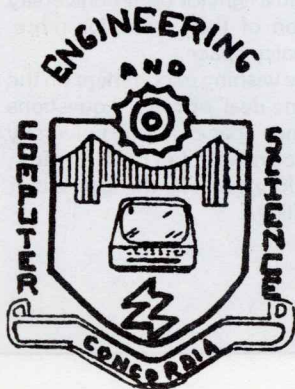
On the other side of the coin, we are presenting the Pink and Purple Punk Party Part Two as well as Concordia's very first Adam and Eve Fig Leaf Party - vegetarians welcome!

For those who take challenges seriously, there will be a design contest, an egg dropping contest, boat races, the assassins game, treasure and scavenger hunts, and a veritable tug of war to separate the men from the boys.

Coffee and doughnuts will be served throughout the week and, of course, there will be the traditional Pancake Party Thursday morning.

Wednesday features a gourmet delight in "Scoff with the Profs" at a fashionable Crescent street restaurant.

Engineering Week culminates with a ski day/night party at Mont Tremblant. 1983 is the Year of the Engineers and you only live once, so get up and enjoy.



Council Commits Suicide

(continued from page 1)

the existing three Deans and one Provost.

This recommendation seems to fit hand-in-glove with the Peat-Marwick concept of reducing the importance of the Arts and Science faculty. And it is this same recommendation that the Arts and Science Faculty Council approved in a recent meeting, one of five meetings dedicated to studying and responding to the reports.

The Council approved this recommendation on the basis that it would get rid of an added layer of bureaucracy and produce a more unified faculty.

What it did not comment on was how one Dean would handle the largest faculty in the school, having almost three times the number of students as Fine Arts or Engineering and including over 50 departments.

This mysterious new Dean was quite often referred to as the 'Super Dean' but no one volunteered any information on who this might be or how he would deal with departments as diverse as chemistry, philosophy and journalism.

It has been proposed that Super Dean could have Assistant Deans or that the Department chairmen could be given broader powers. Both these suggestions, however, go against the main reasons for the establishment of a single Dean in the first place: reducing bureaucracy and creating a stronger, unified faculty.

The major problem with approving such a recommendation at the present time is that no-one has any ideas of how

such changes will be implemented or how they will affect the 'power balance' (translation: money and space) within the university.

Much of the present reports are dedicated to stating what Concordia should be doing rather than on how we can do these things. They say we should set our priorities for course funding, but they don't give us a list of course priorities. They say we should become more business-oriented, but they don't tell us how. They say we should decide whether we want to continue our open admissions policy or restrict enrollment through entrance exams or other methods, but they don't decide for us.

It was hoped that much of the confusion created by the publishing of these reports would be resolved when the Peat-Marwick Phase II Report was published. But the Phase II Report was published in December and it is generally agreed upon that it says even less than Phase I.

Major questions also remain to be answered about the reports themselves: How much input will students, faculty, and lower-echelon administrations have when the final, concrete recommendations are finally tabled? Why was a total of only one undergraduate student interviewed for the reports? and How much is the Peat-Marwick Committee costing us (Could it possibly be the rumored \$110,000)?

One thing is pretty certain, however: The faculties of Fine Arts and Arts and Science are going to lose out in any major changes brought about by these reports.

The Return of Solecism

Solecism has returned.

For those of you who don't remember Solecism, or those of you who never knew Solecism, it is produced by the Concordia University Students Association (CUSA) to inform Concordia students of events and issues affecting their education and their life at Concordia.

An important thing to remember is that this is a newsletter, not a newspaper. The normal "objectivity" that is supposed to exist in strict news coverage does not apply here. As a matter of fact, objectivity is often flouted in Solecism in order to attract attention to important new subjects (take the "Arts and Science Council Slits its Own Throat" article as an example).

Reasonable (translation: 'logical') articles on any subjects affecting student life are welcomed from any students wishing to contribute their knowledge and/or their views.

Coming up in future Solecisms this semester are specials on a province-wide student conference being held by CUSA at Concordia and an issue dedicated to Carnival, plus all sorts of other fun stuff.

Anyone wishing to contribute articles, advice, or any other help should contact the Editor, Paul Gott, through CUSA's downtown offices (room H639, 879-4500).